

CLAIMS

1. A healthcare network supporting the prescription of durable medical equipment (DME), the healthcare network comprising:

DME information regarding a patient and a certificate of medical necessity;

at least one database;

a first web server communicatively coupled to the at least one database;

a physician computer, communicatively coupled to the web server, running browser software used by a physician to review the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity;

at least one web page, selectively delivered by the web server to the physician computer, that presents the certificate of medical necessity and the DME information for review by the physician; and

the physician computer responding to input from the physician by at least initiating approval of the certificate of medical necessity and communicating an approved certificate of medical necessity to the web server, the web server storing the approved certificate of medical necessity in the at least one database for future access.

2. The healthcare network of claim 1 further comprising a second web server communicatively coupled to the first web server, the second web server enabling review by a DME provider of the DME information and the approved certificate of medical necessity.

3. The healthcare network of claim 1 further comprising DME advisor software for assisting a care provider in the creation of a DME care plan.

4. The healthcare network of claim 3 wherein the DME advisor software is associated with at least one of the physician computer and the first web server.

5. The healthcare network of claim 1 further comprising a second web server, and wherein the first web server communicates the DME information and the approved certificate of medical necessity to the second web server, and wherein the second web server generates billing information using the DME information and the approved certificate of medical necessity:

6. The healthcare network of claim 1 further comprising a second web server, and wherein the second web server communicates the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity to the first web server.

7. The healthcare network of claim 6 wherein the DME information is generated by a care provider, and input via facsimile for communication by the second web server.

8. The healthcare network of claim 6 wherein the first web server stores the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity in the at least one database.

9. The healthcare network of claim 1 wherein the first web server retrieves at least one of the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity from the at least one database.

10. A method of supporting the prescription durable medical equipment (DME) in a healthcare network, the method comprising:

receiving DME information regarding a patient and a certificate of medical necessity;
presenting the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity to a physician computer;
receiving an approved certificate of medical necessity from the physician computer; and
storing the approved certificate of medical necessity in at least one database for future access.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
retrieving the approved certificate of medical necessity from the at least one database;
and
communicating the approved certificate of medical necessity to a DME provider.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising presenting DME advice to the physician computer.

13. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
retrieving the approved certificate of medical necessity from the at least one database;
and
communicating the approved certificate of medical necessity to a billing system for
generation of billing information based thereon.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the DME information and the certificate of
medical necessity are received from a DME provider.

15. The method of claim 10 further comprising storing the DME information and the
certificate of medical necessity in the at least one database.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the DME information and the certificate of
medical necessity are retrieved from the at least one database .

17. A healthcare network supporting the prescription of durable medical equipment
(DME), the healthcare network comprising:

at least one database that stores DME information regarding a patient and a certificate of
medical necessity;

a first web server communicatively coupled to the at least one database;

a physician computer, communicatively coupled to the web server, running browser software used by a physician to review the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity;

at least one web page, selectively delivered by the web server to the physician computer, that presents the certificate of medical necessity and the DME information for review by the physician; and

the physician computer responding to input from the physician by at least initiating approval of the certificate of medical necessity and communicating an approved certificate of medical necessity to the web server, the web server storing the approved certificate of medical necessity in the at least one database for future access.

18. The healthcare network of claim 17 further comprising a second web server communicatively coupled to the first web server, the second web server delivering the DME information and the certificate of medical necessity to the first web server for storage in the at least one database.

19. The healthcare network of claim 17 further comprising a second web server, and wherein the first web server communicates the DME information and the approved certificate of medical necessity to the second web server, and wherein the second web server generates billing information using the DME information and the approved certificate of medical necessity.

20. The healthcare network of claim 19 wherein the second web server is associated with HCFA.